

The World

Inside the Earth

The earth is made up of 4 layers:

The crust

A thin skin of solid rock, which covers the Earth's surface

Outer core

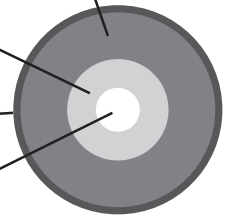
Made of iron, nickel and oxygen and is believed to be molten

The mantle

Made of rock, some of which is *molten* (liquid)

Inner Core

Made of solid iron and nickel



The restless earth

The Earth's crust is made up of pieces (**plates**) that float on the mantle. These plates are constantly moving very slowly around the globe (**continental drift**). This movement is caused by **convection currents** within the mantle. The plates meet up at places called margins.

There are 3 types of margin:

Diverging

Plates move away from each other, allowing **magma** (molten rock) to rise and form new crust.

Converging

Plates move towards each other and crust is destroyed as it is forced down into the mantle.

Transform

Plates move sideways against each other occasionally causing **earthquakes**.

